

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order in the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center on April 8, 2008 by Chairman Craft at 9:31 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Breaker, Callen, Cardella, Griffith, Thomas, and Chairman Craft

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

"After the age of 80, everything reminds you of something else".

Lowell Thomas

"There is no good arguing with the inevitable. The only argument available with an east wind is to put on your overcoat".

James Russell Lowell

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Callen, Commissioner Thomas seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of April 11, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Cardella moved, Commissioner Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of March 11, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dave Crespin, Community Affairs, Torrance Police Department

Hillary Theyer, Principal Librarian

Rabbi Yossi Hecht, Chabad of South Bay Smile on Seniors

Lorraine Mestman, Program Manager, Advocates for Conserved Elders ACE Program

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Griffith reported on a number of issues addressed by the City Council pertaining to a the June 3rd election, ecology students ban on polystyrene, the Robinson Helicopter lease, Torrance Memorial Medical Center eminent domain request and permission to electrify the Exxon Mobil fence.

B. Housing

Commissioner Griffith mentioned that the Housing Office is currently working on the backlog of Section 8 vouchers.

C. Health

Commissioner Griffith shared that Governor Schwarzenegger distributed a warning to the State Government to prepare for extremely cold temperatures in northern and central California.

D. Transportation

None.

E. Cable

Commissioner Callen reported that currently airing is an encore presentation on Alzheimer's disease. He indicated that a profile of Harvey Horwich is showing this week. Commissioner Callen announced that he filmed the Young at Heart Theatre USO Review on April 4th, sharing that it was very entertaining and brought back many memories from this era. He also announced that upcoming segments are the RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, Generic and Brand Name Drugs, and the Special Olympics Track and Field Meet in May.

F. Focal Point Program

None.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Officer Dave Crespino reported that there's been an increase in crimes targeting senior citizens. He highlighted several scams, including telemarketing, home improvement solicitors, remodeling scams, the lotto, the pigeon drop, sweet heart swindle, gypsies, sweepstakes winners and accident scams. Officer Crespino stated that awareness is very important and urged family members to keep close tabs on their senior loved ones.

He reported that identity theft has become more problematic and recommended the following preventative measures: take your mail directly to the post office and do not leave mail outside, purchase a diamond shredder and shred credit card introductory offers, bank receipts, etc., and do not give any personal information over the phone.

Officer Crespino offered that he is available to speak to any organizations and church groups about elder abuse, fraud and internet safety. He indicated that the Neighborhood Watch program is being revitalized and encouraged residents to participate in the program. He shared that the Torrance Police Department now provides a home security check. Their website is www.tpd.tornet.com and the phone number is (310) 328-3456.

9. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that nomination for the Older Americans Recognition must be submitted today. She reminded the

Commission that they need to nominate for two events, the City Council Recognition on May 6th and the Los Angeles County Older Americans Recognition on May 14th.

Commissioner Griffith nominated Helen Dennis.

Chairman Craft nominated Commissioner Griffith.

MOTION: Commissioner Craft, Commissioner Callen seconded to select Helen Dennis and Commissioner Irene Griffith for City of Torrance's Older Americans Recognition on May 6, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Callen, Commissioner Thomas seconded to select Commissioner Irene Griffith for Los Angeles County Older Americans Recognition on May 14, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

10. ORALS

Larraine Mestman presented information about ACE – Advocates for Conserved Elders. She explained that the program is designed to help socialize isolated seniors, referred by the Los Angeles Superior Court. Ms. Mestman stated that she is currently recruiting volunteers in Torrance and throughout Los Angeles County.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand announced that the Commission needs to appoint a representative to sit on the Beat the Odds Scholarship Selection Committee on April 15th. Commissioner Thomas was appointed.

Rabbi Yossi Hecht announced a new program SOS – Smile on Seniors, sharing that the program pairs families with seniors, including weekly visits, walks and assistance with paperwork.

Commissioner Thomas announced that she is running as a National Delegate for the 36th District and to vote for her on Sunday, April 13th from 2 to 3 p.m.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand invited the Commission to attend the 9th Annual Senior Fair on May 10th at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m. to Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bartlett Center, Hosler Conference Room.

Approved as Amended May 13, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
